



## Semicolons

Use a **semicolon** to suggest a stronger pause than a comma indicates. A semicolon may also serve in place of a period.

### 654.1

#### To Join Two Independent Clauses

In a compound sentence, use a semicolon to join two independent clauses that are not connected with a coordinating conjunction. (See 792.1.)

**The United States has more computers than any other country; its residents own more than 224 million of them.**

### 654.2

#### With Conjunctive Adverbs

A semicolon is also used to join two independent clauses when the clauses are connected by a conjunctive adverb (such as *as a result*, *for example*, *however*, *therefore*, and *instead*). (See 788.1.)

**Germany is fourth on that list; nevertheless, the Germans have 45 million computers.**

**You might think that the billion people of China own a lot of computers; instead, the smaller country of Japan has more computers than China.**

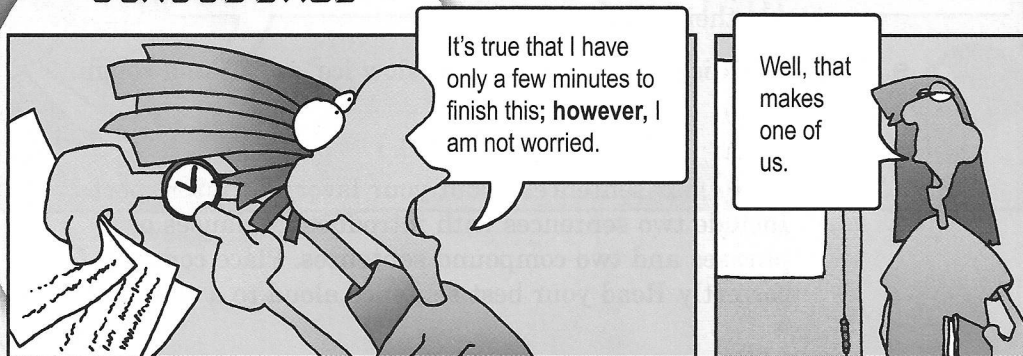
### 654.3

#### To Separate Groups That Contain Commas

Use a semicolon between groups of words in a series when one or more of the groups already contain commas.

**Many of our community's residents separate their garbage into bins for newspapers, cardboard, and junk mail; glass, metal, and plastic; and nonrecyclable trash.**

## SCHOOL DAZE



## Practice

## Semicolons



For each of the following sentences, write the words on either side of the needed semicolons and insert the semicolons.

**Example:** Animation has become very popular however, artists actually began animating cartoons in the early 1900s.

*popular; however*

1. The first cartoons were hand drawn frame by frame as a result, each cartoon took a long time to create.
2. Winsor McCay took his time making his cartoons his five-minute cartoon *Gertie the Dinosaur* took more than a year to make.
3. Early cartoons created by individual artists took a lot of time their quality was very high compared to some later cartoons.
4. Some of the most well-known names in animation include Walt Disney, who led the way Max Fleischer, who thought up Popeye and Walter Lantz, the creator of Woody Woodpecker.
5. Computer-generated animation is now fairly common it can make animation look very real.
6. Computer-animated movies include Disney's *Toy Story*, *A Bug's Life*, and *Finding Nemo* Dreamworks' *Shrek*, *Antz*, and *Spirit: Stallion of the Cimarron* and Columbia Tri-Star's *Final Fantasy: The Spirits Within*.
7. Lately, *anime* has caught on in this country it is a Japanese style of animation.
8. Animated movies used to be made for children today, they are just as likely to be aimed at the parents, too.

*Next Step:* Write two independent clauses (sentences) about a cartoon you like and join them with a semicolon.